

BUDGET CONTROL ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, if this had been a clean vote to raise the debt ceiling, I would have supported it—as I have in the past, and as our nation has done 78 times since 1960.

But this was far from a clean vote. The cuts were too large, there were no revenues, no plan for job creation, and thus it was an unbalanced approach to the deficit problem.

Although cuts to Medicare and Medicaid were averted in the first round of cuts, the 'sequestration trigger' included cuts to Medicare providers which would hurt my district, and ultimately Medicare recipients as well.

What's more, making such large budget cuts now, in the midst of a struggling recovery would lead to a further loss of jobs—at a time when there are already five Americans out of work for every one job opening. This deal makes things worse; it would slow economic growth.

The process by which this deal was reached was no less ugly. This issue was taken hostage by the most extreme parts of the Republican Party, who put forward non-negotiable demands, which is not how democracy works.

By refusing to even consider closing tax loopholes and ending special-interest subsidies, the Republicans made clear who should pay for their extreme agenda: those who can least afford it.

I will not be a party to a plan which is likely to hurt the interests of my district, my city and my country as it struggles to emerge from the worst economic crisis since the Depression.

HONORING THOMAS SHERIDAN

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of my life-long friend, Mr. Thomas Sheridan.

Tom Sheridan and I grew up together in our hometown of East Hartford, Connecticut. We attended Saint Rose's School where we were taught by the Sisters of Notre Dame and were teammates playing football for Pappy's Black Knights; I was the quarterback, he was the center.

After graduation Tom went on to serve with distinction during the Vietnam War earning several medals including the Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and a Presidential Unit Citation.

At the close of his military service Tom came home to Connecticut to be with his beautiful wife, Nancy, and raise their two sons who were the greatest joys of his life, Kevin and Brett.

Tom became a successful attorney and later served the Connecticut General Assembly as the Clerk of the House. It was one of the greatest moments in my career when I had the honor to appoint him Senate Clerk, where he served until his final days with distinction, integrity, and fairness.

Tom will be dearly missed and it is my honor to remember my friend today before this esteemed body.

OFFERING CONDOLENCES TO THE PEOPLE OF NORWAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my deep condolences to the people of Norway with respect to the recent tragedy which took the lives of innocent citizens, many of them children.

Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg has wisely observed that the people of Norway are "unused to violence in your quiet country of 4.8 million" and that they "must struggle with how to improve security without jeopardizing the freedom and openness of your society." I commend his courage and encourage the people of Norway to embrace his wisdom.

While the horror of what has happened can carve a dark hole in the hearts of the people of Norway, each person has the power and the strength to heal those who have lost their loved ones through their individual commitment to remain open to each other. Each citizen can choose not to let those who would divide their nation sow their seeds of doubt, hate and division.

As we mourn the loss we ask the people of Norway to remember that their country has many admirers. On several occasions during the last decade the nation of Norway has been recognized as the best country in which to live. This compassionate country built a public health care system that cares for all of its citizens. Their nation created an education system that sets their literacy rate at almost 100 percent. Their understanding of the importance of family provides parental benefits and paternity leave for the first full year in the life of a newborn child.

As the citizen's of Norway already demonstrate in their daily interactions with each other and in their willingness to build a society that truly cares for the well being of all of its citizens; openness, compassion and the ability to reach across cultural and ethnic lines is essential to build peace and strengthen nations.

The nation of Norway is a noble one. We know its citizens will stand together through this dark hour. We want them to know that we are standing with them.

SUPPORT OF H.J. RES. 66: APPROVING THE RENEWAL OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS CONTAINED IN THE BURMESE FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2003

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.J. Res. 66, approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the "Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003."

I support this resolution because it is consistent with our humanitarian and democratic

values against forced labor. As Americans, we must not only sustain these values in our country but we must act globally and deter other countries from tolerating or employing practices that have no place in a civilized society such as forcing innocent men, women, and children to work under harsh and slave-like labor conditions. For this reason, it is critical that we renew the import restrictions contained in the "Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003."

Mr. Speaker, it is helpful to recount briefly why import restrictions were placed by the United States on Burma and why it is important to renew them.

In 1990, Burma's State Peace and Development Council, SPDC, known then as the State Law and Order Restoration Council, held multiparty elections. The overwhelming number of parliamentary seats (82 percent) was won by the National League for Democracy party, led by Nobel Prize for Peace Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. However, the military regime refused to honor the election results, however, and arrested and imprisoned both democracy activists and elected members of parliament, including Aung San Suu Kyi.

Multiparty general elections were next held in Burma on Nov. 7, 2010 as part of the "roadmap to democracy" proposed by the ruling military regime. The National League refused to participate over concerns that the electoral process was fraudulent, concerns that were confirmed by the United Nations and most Western countries, which noted widespread fraud, voter intimidation and cheating throughout the country.

Since then, the Burmese regime has continued its campaign of suppression and persecution against political opponents, dissidents and other minority populations. This shameful conduct has resulted in the internal displacement of more than 600,000 people and forced more than 130,000 persons to live in refugee camps along the Thai-Burma border. Additionally, during this time the SPDC regime has been protecting drug traffickers and forcing residents into slave labor.

In response to these atrocities, Congress enacted the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act in 2003, which it reauthorized in 2009. The law imposed import restrictions; froze any assets held by the regime in the United States; and expressed U.S. opposition for international lending to the SPDC. The law also prohibited the issuance of U.S. entry visas to members of the SPDC and condemned the regime's campaign against its people and expressed support for opposition groups.

These restrictions are to remain in place until the State Department certifies that the regime no longer systematically violates the human rights of the Burmese people; no longer uses slave and child labor; and halts the conscription of child soldiers. The law also requires as a precondition to lifting the restrictions that the regime make demonstrable progress in releasing political prisoners, permitting free speech, permitting the peaceful exercise of religion, and holding free and fair elections.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, the regime in Burma has not made the necessary progress to justify lifting the restriction. According to a recent report of Human Rights Watch, the highly respected NGO, tens of thousands of villagers have been displaced and fled to the Thai-